

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

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PERTINENT INFORMATION

There was also a bond between the Grand MUFTI of Jerusalem and President Ali Gaillani of Peshawar. The latter was recognized in the German government as The Prime Minister of Iraq, the notes having been exchanged to that effect between Ribbentrop and Gaillani. But he was as lazy as any Arab. His brother, who was the Iraqi minister in Ankara before his "transfer" to Germany, was ambitious and did not like any other Arab to shine more than he did. Before he was joined by his brother in Germany, Gaillani enjoyed wide following among the Arab nationalists and was in good favor with the Grand MUFTI. But his own laziness as well as his brother's treason pushed most of Arab refugees in Germany to the Grand MUFTI's camp. The Grand MUFTI was no chief of any national government but was something like an all-Arab personality at home in the Near East as well as in Germany. He was a hard worker. He was full of ideas and resources to carry them out. When he thinks of anything to do, he gets up and calls a conference of his men even in the small hours of the morning upon Gaillani, the chief; though political of the Gaillani school of the Mohammedans and the descendant of the Prophet, was enjoying peace in his heart. The Grand MUFTI's attitude and action appealed to the Germans as well as to young Arabs more than the Iraqi chief, who did not like it. Grobba, former German minister in Berlin, who was in charge of the Gaillani government at the German Foreign Office, lost his job because of his protégé's laziness and was transferred to the Paris embassy under Ahez to "study the French documents in the Mohammedan affairs." His assistant and Arab-speaking Legationsrat Orman was removed from the more important political department of the Foreign Office to the less important Canadian section. On the other hand, an collaborator of the Grand MUFTI in the French Maroccain and Tunisian operations, was promoted to the ambassadorship in Musolini's Italy.

During one of my visits to Berlin, Gaillani invited me to his house first by Graf von Krosigk, then the Finance Minister and later Doenitz's Foreign Minister. Gaillani asked me to tell my Japanese friends in Berlin that they should not favour the Grand MUFTI for co-operation, like the Germans did. He said that his son, whose religious chief remains in Berlin as the British occupation authorities dared not molest him for consideration of consequences that the British occupation that the British persecution of the sectarian chief might have on his following in India, was not useful for Japan's Indian policy and that his brother married with an Afghan princess of blood was sitting north of Karachi. His private secretary, Hilmi, who was vice-consul in Istanbul and who was my personal friend, requested me to put him through to the Japanese embassy. I presented him to some embassy secretaries....."

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